THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE L.NARASIMHA REDDY

WRIT PETITION No.16648 of 2007

Date: 13.08.2007

Between:

B.Nirmala Devi

....Petitioner

and

The District Collector and others.

....Respondents

O R D E R:

The husband of the petitioner was an Ex-Serviceman. He was assigned an extent of Ac. 1.20 cents of land in Survey No.531/95 of Lakshmipuram Village, Badvel Town, Kadapa District, by the competent authority, *vide* proceedings, dated 18.11.1998. After his death, the said property devolved upon the petitioner. The petitioner states that on account of her old age, she is unable to maintain the property and that she intends to sell the same. She complains that the Sub-Registrar, Kadapa District, the fourth respondent herein, is refusing to entertain the deed for registration on the ground that the land is notified as an assigned one and that he is requiring the petitioner to obtain 'no objection certificate' from the Mandal Revenue Officer. She challenges the action of the respondent.

Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner.

The learned Government Pleader for Revenue submits that in view of the prohibition contained in Section 5 of the A.P.

Assigned Lands (Prohibition of Transfer) Act, 1977, it became imperative for him to insist for 'no objection certificate' from the Mandal Revenue Officer. The plea of the petitioner that she is entitled to sell the property on expiry of 10 years from the date of assignment as per G.O.Ms.No. 1117, dated 11.11.1993, is not seriously contested. He places reliance upon a Memo, dated 29.11.2005, issued by the Commissioner and Inspector General of Registration and Stamps, Hyderabad, and submits that unless there is a clear circular as to the alienability of the land, the document cannot be admitted to registration.

It is not in dispute that the land referred to above was assigned to the husband petitioner in his capacity as an Ex-Serviceman. Though a general prohibition operates against alienation of assigned lands, the Government had maintained the distinction, as regards the lands assigned in favour of Ex-Servicemen. After taking into account the various aspects that are involved in the matter, the Government issued orders in G.O.Ms.No. 1117, dated 11.11.1993, permitting the alienation of the lands assigned to Ex-Serviceman, after expiry of 10 years from the date of the assignment. It is in this context that the Mandal Revenue Officer and the Revenue Divisional Officer of the concerned areas, have certified that the petitioner is entitled to alienate the land assigned to her husband, in terms of the G.O referred to above. Such a certification though not necessary, is more than sufficient to clear the doubt entertained by the respondent. When the case of the petitioner is clearly covered by a specific G.O.Ms.No. 1117, dated 11.11.1993,

issued by the Government, the respondent cannot still insist on 'no objection certificate' from the Mandal Revenue Officer. For the same reason, the Memo, dated 29.11.2005, cannot be treated as the basis to deny registration of documents.

For the foregoing, the Writ Petition is allowed and the fourth respondent is directed to receive the documents that may be presented by the petitioner and consider the same for admitting them to registration, without applying any prohibition on the ground that it is an assigned land, provided that the revenue authority not below the rank of the Mandal Revenue Officer certifies about genuinity of the assignment and a period of ten years had elapsed from the date of assignment. There shall be no order as to costs.

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13.08.2007

kdl